



PNG TANGET

News Leaflet of Mariannahill in Papua New Guinea

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Mariannahill College Bomana
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Happy Easter time to all of you, dear friends of Mariannahill in Papua New Guinea!

We still hear the echo of the Easter Sequence with its 'mors et vita duello', 'death and life engaged in duel'. It makes me think of the different relation between life and death in moderate and in tropical climates. The moderate climates have their seasons. There is a relatively clear separation between times of birth and maturity and times of decay and death. And the transition from life to death is gradual, even gentle. Here in the tropics life and death are united in a seasonless embrace. The whole year round life springs up out of dying underground. And what is alive and strong is preyed upon by the surrounding nature. It's life and death in a deadly and, at the same time life-giving embrace.

The Easter message is valid for both environments, for the endless circle dance of seasons as well as for the never-ending life/death embrace. Revelation illumines and Gregorian chant polishes the drama and let it hover melodious in sacred space: 'Mors et vita duello . . .' revealing its hidden truth.

But let's go to the facts of the last months of our life and work here in PNG, for that is why you have started reading this TANGET. Welcome!

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

On December 19, 2012 **Sister Grace Karinga CPS**, from Kenya, had landed in PNG in order to reinforce our CPS team in Lae, especially with her professional skills, as she has a doctor's degree in medicine. But integration turned out to be difficult. The delay of the licence for exercising her profession in PNG

kept her professionally in limbo for a year. By that time patience was running out. Consultation with the CPS Generalate resulted in a new destination, this time Zambia, where we all hope things will work out better. Sister Grace left PNG on January 16, 2014. With thanks for her commitment, our prayers and good wishes accompany her.



Sister Grace Karinga, CPS

A 'VISA CRUCIS'

In February last year **Fr. Anthony Mulderink** went on holidays to the Netherlands with the intention of coming back three months later. His confreres, relatives and friends have been able, however, to enjoy his peaceful company for more than a year.

If you had been, like Fr. Anthony, for more than 50 years in PNG, you might be inclined to forget about the expiry date of your visa, feeling that being here belongs to your birth rights. It happened to him and in and from Holland he had to apply for a new visa like any newcomer. It took more than a year of red tape to produce the visa.

Thanks to the delay, however, a medical check done later in the year, proved necessary a hip operation. It was done with positive result. Fr.

Anthony, returned safe to PNG on the 25th of March.

TWO PNG NOVICES

On January 22, for our two postulants, **Alois Gende and Wilfred Salhun**, finally the day had come to board the plane and fly to Durban, South Africa, for entering the novitiate at Mariannahill. Alois is from Chimbu and Wilfred from East New Britain.

We are happy to have again novices from PNG and hope, of course, that the novitiate will be a fruitful experience, strengthening them in their vocation. This year the Novitiate, which started on February 1, counts with 13 Novices, 11 of them from different countries from Southern and East Africa. Novice Director is Fr. Patrick Musumba CMM.



Our novices Wilfred and Alois

VISITORS

Among the 'people on the move' we could also count the co-operators of former times who visited us.

On January 16, we received two well-known friends of Mariannahill-PNG, Frits van der Werf and his wife Hanneke. Frits is Fr. Sido's younger brother.

Both Frits and Hanneke were in PNG as lay missionaries from 1967 to 1971, being teachers at St. Mary's

Primary School and St. Martin's, both in Lae, and at Por-Mandok. They can't forget PNG, being also life-time members of the PNG work-group in the Netherlands, and this is the fourth time they have come back to PNG for a visit.



Frits and Hanneke

Another good friend of us, **Eva Lang** from Austria, paid us a welcome visit in December 2013, from the 1st till the 28th. Eva has been in PNG before, working as a lay missionary in the diocese of Lae from



Eva Lang, lay missionary

January 2007 till April 2009. She was eager to come back and see the people with whom she had been working so intensely some years ago. Taking along in heart and memory the people of Lae, their sufferings and their joys, she returned to Austria just before New Year.

CELEBRATIONS

At the beginning of the year we, CMM in PNG, met for an assembly, at the same time celebrating the fact that in January it was 50 years ago that Fr. Sido van der Werf came to PNG and to Lae.

Fr. Sido is the youngest of our 'pioneers' leaving behind an impressive curriculum of starting new missions and building up new parishes.

At the beginning of our presence in Lae, in the early sixties, it was recognized that education would be a most important area for spreading the faith and permeating society with Christian values.

Fr. Sido should be active in the field and so, before coming to PNG, he received a teacher's training in Sydney, Australia.

He was then engaged, apart from parish work, in our Catholic schools in Siassi, on Mandok and in Aupwel, from 1964 till 1968. Back on the mainland he was Diocesan Education Secretary from 1971 to 1975.

After having been the parish priest of St. Martin's (1968-1973) and St. Mary's (1973-1978) he was appointed parish priest of Wau / Bulolo, where he stayed for 15 years (1978 – 1993). During that time he started a mission at Menyamnya, famous for its near-inaccessibility. The year 1993 found Fr. Sido back in Lae, doing parish work and building a church for the new Holy Spirit Parish at Boundary Road.

He then was during 10 years parish priest of St. Mary's until 2005.

Ending his long service at St. Mary's, he settled down at St. Joseph's mission at Eight Mile, apparently retiring to the border of Lae, but without retiring from pastoral commitments. While looking after St. Joseph and St. Steven's parish, he explored the Markham Valley for possibilities of community building. In 2009 the Sacred Heart Church in Erap was built. Since 2011 he stays in charge of St. Joseph's and St. Steven's. By now his years and health are telling him that he should slow down a bit.

We celebrated his 50 years of missionary presence and commitment, thanking God in the Eucharist and having a festive meal at St. Joseph's.



Fr. Sido: 'What remains to be done?'

On Sunday, the 4th of May, our CPS and CMM communities in Lae celebrated the birthdays of our senior missionaries **Sister Clemence Klever CPS (78)** and **Fr. Anthony Mulderink (83)**.

IN THE MEANTIME

Fr. Ludwig Teika, our first CMM priest from PNG, who after his ordination was sent to Colombia in 2012, was called to Rome for taking up a two years postgraduate study in Spiritual Theology. We hope to welcome him back in PNG in the second half of next year in order to reinforce our little group for at least for a few years.

Deacon Daniel Apas, who since January 2012 is a member of our community at Bomana, has started a flexible study, which should give him within two years a Master in Leadership in Education, offered by the Divine Word University of Mardang. We understand that, due to the info-revolution of our days a whole range of new challenges is coming up on the educational level. We have to update ourselves also in the educational field.

And PNG actuality?

As you see, I am on the point of exceeding our habitual two Tanget pages. I must refer you to Internet and Google for general information. Next time more on the situation in the country, its "joy and hope" as Bishop Chris has it in his weapon. Till next time! God bless!

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